

They were at once beheaded and their bodies thrown into the sea, amid the pitying sympathy of vast throngs which dared not lift a hand to save them.

Constantine and Licinius now shared between them the whole of the Roman Empire. They were allies, but their alliance did not long stand the strain of their respective ambitions. Each had won an easy victory over his antagonist, and each was confident that his legions would suffice to win him the empire. We know very little of the pretext. <sup>\*\*</sup> ; <sup>•</sup> signed for the quarrel which culminated in the year of 316. Zosimus throws the blame upon Constantine, whom he accuses of not keeping faith and trying to filch from Licinius some of his province. But as the sympathies of Zosimus were strong against the pagan and as he invariably imputed the worst possible motive to Constantine, it is fairest and most reasonable to suppose that the two Emperors simply quarrelled; relied over the division of the Empire. Constantine had given the hand of his half-sister Anastasia to one of his generals, named Bassianus, whom he had raised to the dignity of a Cæsar. But for some reason left unexplained possibly because Constantine granted only the title, without the provinces, of a Cæsar—Bassianus became well contented with his position and entered into intrigue with Licinius. Constantine discovered the plot, put Bassianus to death, and demanded from Licinius the surrender of Senecio, a brother of the victim and a relative of Licinius. The demand was refused; some statues of Constantine were destroyed.